

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ES, PINT, PGOV
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT MOLINA'S ADMINISTRATION OBSERVES ITS THIRD
ANNIVERSARY

REF: SAN SALVADOR A-92

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

1. SUMMARY - PRESIDENT MOLINA, HIS GOVERNMENT AND THE PCN PARTY
OVSERVED THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF MOLINA'S ENTRY INTO OFFICE ON
JULY 1 WITH A PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH AND A MASS PARADE AND RALLY IN
DOWNTOWN SAN SALVADOR. THE MAIN FOCUS OF THE SPEECH AND DEMONSTRATION
IN SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT CENTERED ON THE RECENTLY ENACTED
CREATION OF AN AGRARIAN TRANSFORMATION INSTITUTE (ISTA) (SEE
REFTEL). END SUMMARY

2. PRESIDENT MOLINA GAVE THE PRINCIPAL ADDRESS AT THE TEATRO
PRESIDENTE BEFORE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT, PARTY, THE
DIPLOMATIC CORPS, AND DELEGATIONS OF THE VARIOUS SECTORS. ALTHOUGH
THE FIFTY MINUTE SPEECH WAS ESSENTIALLY A PANORAMA OF THE PROBLEMS
AND OPPORTUNITIES FACING THE NATION, ON SUBJECT DOMINATED THE
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PRESIDENT'S TEXT AND THE MINDS OF THE AUDIENCE, BOTH THOSE IN THE

THEATER AND THE MARCHERS IN THE STREET LISTENING OVER CARTOP LOUDSPEAKERS. THAT TOPIC WAS AGRARIAN REFORM. THE PRESIDENT STEPPED BACK SOMEWHAT AND TOOK A MORE CONCILIATORY TONE TOWARDS ALL ELEMENTS IN THE AGRARIAN EQUATION THATN WAS EVIDENT IN HIS JUNE 25 RADIO/TV SPEECH (SEE A-92 OF JUNE 27). "THE FINAL GOAL OF ISTA IS NOT TO PROVOKE DISORDER OR INSECURITY AMONG OUR LANDOWNERS (TERRATENIENTES), WHETHER LARGE, MEDIUM OR SMALL". HE REPEATED HIS GOVERNMENT'S BELIEF THAT IF SOMETHING IS NOT DONE TO SATISFY THE REAL NEEDS OF THE CAMPESINO, THE POSSIBILITY OF VIOLENCE IS GREAT. BUT HE STRESSED THAT IN IMPLEMENTING A MEANINGFUL AGRARIAN TRANSFORMATION ISTA WILL BE CAREFUL TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF, AND SOLICIT THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF, ALL GROUPS INCLUDING THE PRIVATE SECTOR. "ISTA WILL GUARANTEE THE PROPER VALUE OF ANY LANDS AFFECTED BY THIS PROCESS, WHETHER VOLUNTARILY SOLD OR BY EXPROPRIATION". HIS WORDS IMPLIED THAT THE GOES WILL MOVE AHEAD WITH DUE CAUTION AND CAREFUL STUDY TO ASSURE THAT PRODUCTION LEVELS ARE MAINTAINED, AND THAT THE INTERESTS OF THE PRESENT OWNERS ARE DULY SAFEGUARDED. "THIS PROCESS OF AGRARIAN TRANSFORMATION WILL NOT TAKE PLACE OVERNIGHT.. WE HAVE HAD TO WAIT A LONG TIME FOR THIS PROGRAM TO ARRIVE. IT WILL BE WELL WORTH IT TO WAIT A LITTLE LONGER FOR ITS COMPLETE REALIZATION. WE WILL NOT RUN FULL SPEED BECAUSE WE DO NOT WANT TO STUMBLE ALONG THE WAY". MOLINA ALSO STRESSED THAT THE CAMPESINOS SHOULD NOW BE PATIENT AND WAIT FOR THE LAW TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN AN ORDERLY MANNER, "DO NOT LET YOURSELVES BE USED BY UN-SCRUPULOUS AND IRRESPONSIBLE POLITICIANS, WHO, WITHOUT MEASURING THE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR INSANE PROPOSALS, INTED TO DESTROY THIS GREAT SOCIAL ADVANCE BY ENCOURAGING VIOLENCE, DISORDER AND ANARCHY".

3. AFTER A RECAPITULATION OF WHAT HE HAS DONE, AND HOPES TO DO IN THE REMAINING TWO YEARS (FULL TEXT TO BE POUCHED), THE PRESIDEMLY WENT TO THE FRONT OF THE SUPPORT PARADE, ESTIMATED AT ANYWHERE FROM 15-25,000 MARCHERS (THE GOVERNMENT CLAIMED 42,000), WHICH HAD BEEN ORGANIZING ITSELF FROM EARLY THAT MORNING. HE AND RUBEN ALFONSO "CHELE" RODRIGUEZ, PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY AND EFFECTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE PCN, THEN RODE AT THE HEAD OF THE DEMONSTRATION TO THE DOWNTOWN RALLY. THE CROWD, PURPORTED TO CONTAIN LARGE CAMPESINO CONTINGENTS FROM EACH OF THE 14 DEPARTMENTS, AS WELL AS SIZEABLE GROUPS FROM THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHANTYTOWN ZONAS MARGINALES AROUND SAN SALVADOR, HAD FOR THE MOST PART BEEN GATHERED, TRUCKED INTO THE CITY, FED A MEAL, AND OTHERWISE ORGANIZED BY ORDEN, THE PARTY'S PARAMILITARY COUTERPART IN THE RURAL AREAS. ALTHOUGH THE PRESS THE NEXT DAY CLAIMED THAT THE UNION COMUNAL SALVADOREAN (UCS) HAD ORGANIZED THE PARADE, THE UCS HAD HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT. IN COMPARISON TO THE UCS MANIFESTATION OF LAST DECEMBER (SAN SALVADOR 5001). THESE MARCHERS WERE (1) OF RELATIVELY HIGHER ECONOMIC STATUS

(ALL HAD SHOES, A NUMBER OF THE LEADERS WERE WELL DRESSED, ETC);
AND (2) CONSIDERABLY LESS ENTHUSIASTIC AND SPONTANEOUS IN CHANTING
THEIR SLOGANS. THE EMBASSY HAS HEARD THAT THE UCS, A RIVAL OF
ORDEN IN THE RURAL AREAS, WILL POSSIBLY ORGANIZE ITS OWN MARCH
IN SUPPORT OF ISTA AT A LATER DATE.

4. THE SIGNS AND BANNERS, MOSTLY CRUDE AND HOMEMADE, CONTAINED
TWO BASIC THEMES: THE COUNTRY IS COMPLETELY BEHIND PRESIDENT
MOLINA IN ALL HIS ACTS, BUT ESPECIALLY ON THE ISTA PROPOSAL;
IAND THAT MOLINA, THE PCN, AND ORDEN REPRESENT THE ONLY
"NATIONALISTIC", TRULY SALVADORAN, POLITICAL FORCE IN THE
COUNTRY. THIS IS THE SAME THEME THAT WAS USED WITH RELATIVELY
LITTLE SUCCESS IN THE 1974 ELECTIONS, THE PCN IS SALVADORAN
AND NATIONALISTIC, WHILE THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND THEIR
"COMMUNIST ALLIES" REPRESENT "IMPORTED IDEOLOGIES".
CAMPBELL

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